SOUTH AFRICA'S TRUE INTERESTS

General Viljoen, the head of the South African Defence Force, has acted swiftly and spoken frankly about the case of the three South African soldiers killed last week on Zimbabwean soil. He explained that the three, with their thirteen black soldiers, had been on an unauthorised mission; and he has expressed regret for what happened. This is an important development. For, despite the avowed intent of the South African Government to live in peace with its neighbours, there have been suspicions lately that those in South Africa inside the security forces, who believe that the destabilisation of neighbouring states is in South Africa’s interests, are not being effectively restrained.

Acts of violence and sabotage, both in the front line states and against opponents of the South African Government elsewhere, have been on the increase in recent months. The Minister of Works of Namaacha, which is about 80 km west of Maputo, had been the work of “South African commandos”.

Initial reports of the raid described one of the raiders as a white soldier with his face painted black, but later reports said all the attackers had been Portuguese-speaking Blacks. According to Anop, the Mozambicans said investigations into the action were nearing completion, but gave no further details.

agency, said in a report from Maputo Portugal’s embassy had received an official note from Mozambique’s Ministry of Agriculture saying the raid on Namaacha, about 80 km west of Maputo, had been the work of “South African commandos”.

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THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg, 1982-08-27

President Samora Machel said South Africa was waging an “undeclared war” against his Marxist Government and days after a parcel bomb killed South African exile Ruth First at her Maputo office. — Sapa-AP.